

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04332 151524Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /056 W  
-----069526 160135Z /66

R 151447Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4881  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4332

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, ET  
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF MILITIA MOVEMENTS TO COMBAT AREAS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4849

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM RELIABLE BUSINESS SOURCES IN POSITION TO KNOW THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF MILITIA FORCES FROM TATEK MEDA TRAINING CAMP HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE OUT OF ADDIS ABABA TO ERITREA AND OGADEN.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, 83 BUS LOADS OF MILITIA LEFT JULY 14 BOUND FOR ASSAB. ALTHOUGH ASSAB HAS BEEN QUIET, RECENT EPMG REVERSES IN NORTHERN ERITREA APPARENTLY HAVE DICTATED INCREASED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IN ALL MAJOR ERITREAN CITIES, AND IT OF COURSE ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME OR ALL OF MILITIA WILL BE TRANSHIPPED TO MASSAWA. SMALL CONTINGENT OF REGULAR ARMY FORCES ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN FLOWN TO ASMARA FROM JIMMA IN SOUTHWEST ETHIOPIA.

3. SAME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT 16 PLANELOADS (VARIOUS  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04332 151524Z

TYPES OF AIRCRAFT INCLUDING 720 BS) OF MILITIA SCHEDULED TO FLY TO DIRE DAWA JULY 15, SINCE BRIDGES ON RAILROAD AND HIGHWAY TO DIRE DAWA ARE OUT, PREVENTING RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC. ABOUT A WEEK AGO A TRAINLOAD OF MILITIA (25 PASSENGER CARS) APPARENTLY LEFT ADDIS AS WELL, WITH INTENTION OF TRAVELING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BY RAIL AND HIKING REST OF WAY TO DIRE DAWA.

4. IT IS BELIEVED THAT PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM LEFT ADDIS EARLY JULY 14 ON SHORT INSPECTION TRIP TO DIRE DAWA, ASSAB, AND HUMERA ON SUDANESE BORDER. NOT KNOWN WHETHER HE RETURNED SAME DAY OR IS STILL EN ROUTE.

5. NEARLY ALL ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, WERE CANCELLED JULY 15, PRESUMABLY TO PROVIDE TROOP TRANSPORTATION. EAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT LIMITED FLIGHTS WILL RESUME BEGINNING TONIGHT, AND THAT RESUMPTION FULL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CAN BE EXPECTED JULY 16 OR 17.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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